

TRICARE Europe

Release

"Your passport to quality health"

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Release Number: 04-05

Date: June 14, 2004

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School's Out! Time for Summer Travel

For many TRICARE Prime beneficiaries in Europe, the end of the school year marks the start of the summer travel season. The following is a synopsis of need-to-know information about health care for vacationing TRICARE Europe beneficiaries as well as relatives from the U.S. who visit military families in Europe this summer.

Travel in Europe

If you require emergency medical care while on vacation, seek care at the nearest military treatment facility. If you aren't certain where to go, contact the nearest TRICARE Service Center (TSC) for a referral to a host nation provider or seek care at the nearest emergency room, hospital or clinic (your TRICARE Europe Passport lists contact numbers in Europe – you can get a Passport from your TSC if you don't have one).

In all cases, you must contact your servicing TRICARE Service Center as soon as possible — preferably before care is rendered or immediately afterward if this is not possible. This is essential to make sure your claims are processed correctly. Remember that preauthorization is required for any non-emergency civilian care received overseas.

Travel in the U.S.

If you need emergency medical care while traveling in the U.S., you are not required to seek authorization for care. Go to your nearest military or civilian emergency room. If it is not an emergency, we recommend you wait until you return home to receive care. If you cannot wait, refer to your TRICARE Europe Passport or call TRICARE for instructions.

Travel Over 60 Days

If you will be traveling to the states for a visit that exceeds 60 days, contact your servicing TSC to request a transfer of your Prime enrollment to the region in which you will be staying. When you arrive at your destination, you must contact the gaining TSC to ensure your enrollment is transferred. Once you return to Europe, you must contact your TSC again to ensure your Prime enrollment is transferred back to Europe.

TRICARE Dental Program While Traveling

Family members of active duty military stationed overseas, as well as reservists and their family members living overseas, may enroll in the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) at any time. This paid dental insurance plan, managed by United Concordia Companies, Inc. (UCCI), helps offset out-of-pocket expenses for overseas civilian dental care.

If overseas TDP enrollees seek dental care in the U.S. while on vacation, CONUS dental benefit procedures and costs will be followed (see www.ucci.com). Non-availability and Referral Forms are not required to receive dental care in CONUS. More information may be found at www.ucci.com and www.europe.tricare.osd.mil.

Visiting Children of Active Duty Members Assigned Overseas

If you have children who attend school in the U.S. but return overseas to stay with you for an extended period (over 60 days) during the summer, we recommend you enroll them in TRICARE Europe Prime for the summer. Local enrollment ensures priority access to care and smooth claims processing. If they stay with you for less than 60 days, we recommend they remain enrolled in their stateside TRICARE region. Note that children must reside with you, their overseas-assigned active duty sponsor, in order to be eligible for Prime.

When students who have transferred their enrollment to TRICARE Europe return to school in the U.S. they must outprocess with their servicing overseas TRICARE Service Center (TSC) and return to the Prime or Standard coverage they had in the states. Contact your TSC for more information.

Please note that children of retirees who are enrolled in TRICARE Prime in the states but attend school or spend their summers (over 60 days) with their retired sponsor overseas should have their sponsor notify their stateside TSC to disenroll. TRICARE Prime is not available to retirees and their families overseas.

Other Visiting Family Members (who are not TRICARE or TRICARE for Life beneficiaries)

If your parents, in-laws, or other non-dependent family members visit you this summer, they must ensure that their health insurance policy covers them overseas. If not, they may wish to purchase temporary travel insurance.

Medicare does not pay for care received overseas. If your visitors are covered under Medicare, ensure that they are aware of this rule and understand that there are no exceptions.

For more information about traveling with TRICARE, see www.europe.tricare.osd.mil or stop by your local TRICARE Service Center.

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